



MEDIA ADVISORY



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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DATE: July 27, 2005

OFFICIALS TO MARK FIRST YEAR OF EMERGENCY STATE RULE ALLOWING FOR THINNING FORESTS TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES

One year ago, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection enacted an emergency rule to allow landowners near communities to quickly remove trees and brush to minimize potential fire threats to those communities. The regulation gave communities at risk and landowners in the wildland-urban interface a more efficient way to reduce the risk of damage and loss associated with catastrophic fire and direct threats to homes. Prior to the rule, time-consuming timber harvest plans were required.

The Soper-Wheeler Company, a 101-year-old forestry company in Northern California, was the first major landowner to use the emergency regulation to clear trees and brush from an overgrown area near Brownsville, located northeast of Marysville.

WHAT: Opportunity for media to see how the emergency rule helped reduce the fire threat

WHO: Representatives of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection; Soper-Wheeler Company; Yuba fire safety officials; community members.

WHEN: 11 A.M., THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2005

WHERE: The Soper-Wheeler Company, 19855 Barton Hill Road, Strawberry Valley, CA (near Marysville)

VISUALS: Forest thinned under emergency rule to protect community from wildfire; nearby unthinned and overgrown forest; registered professional foresters involved in the effort; community members discussing thinning project. Also opportunity to see harvesting operation nearby.

DIRECTIONS: From the south/Sacramento: Take Hwy 70 to Marysville, then Hwy 20 towards Grass Valley. Left onto County Rd E21 (at Browns Valley sign). Travel about 30 miles; the Soper-Wheeler office is on the left. From the north or west: Take Hwy 70 to Oro-Dam Blvd in Oroville; drive through town 1-2 miles. Right on Hwy 162 (Olive Hwy). Right on Forbestown Rd; continue 20 miles. Left on County Rd E21/Marysville Road (at Browns Valley sign) and follow above directions.